

Annual Report 2013/14

The past year has been dominated by planning matters. There have been 18 applications to which the parish council objected to 6 and had no objection to 11.

The application by Bloor Homes for 16 new dwellings in Flyford Flavell was subject to a very extensive consultation process involving the Parish Council and the local community over a 2 year period. This resulted in extensive modifications to the design and appearance of the dwellings, agreement to landscaping, and agreement to create a village green to be transferred to the ownership of the parish council for the continued benefit of the local community. This will come landscaped and with £75,000 to fund the maintenance of the green. Following these modifications the Parish Council supported this application on the grounds of it being the best possible outcome for Flyford in the light of the planning provision for Flyford Flavell in the South Worcestershire Development Plan. Whilst this application has only had somewhat reluctant support from the local community, in my opinion without the Parish Council we would not be getting a funded village green, and we would have considerably less appropriate and less attractive new dwellings being approved. This has been a very valuable action and has only been made possible through a major investment of time by the Parish Council and in particular our clerk, Mark Broughton Taylor.

There have also been 2 separate applications for significant development in Flyford, both were objected to by the Parish Council. A very contentious planning application was made for a chicken farm just outside the parish boundary south of North Piddle. This was opposed by a local action group with the full support of the parish council, including Mr A Reeve as our representative in the group. The application was rejected by Wychavon, and then went to appeal. The Inspector upheld the application against the views of the local community. A further application has been made to double the size of the proposed farm. This is also objected to by the parish council and the local action group.

The final application objected to by the parish council was for a significant extension to Orchard Bungalow. This was objected to primarily on grounds of over development for the limited site, contravention of the Village Design Statement and parts of Wychavon's policy, and inadequate drainage. This was approved by Wychavon in a manner considered inappropriate by the Parish Council. We have raised this to Wychavon for them to explain their process and having received an unsatisfactory response. We have now decided to make formal complaint.

The South Worcestershire Development plan has been challenged by the

Secretary of State and an additional 5000 houses added to bring the total to 28370 from 2006 to 2030. This has also raised the possibility of a further housing allocation for Flyford Flavell with a possible site north of Radford Road opposite the Bloor Homes site. This will go through consultation this summer.

We also dealt with a lot of other matters during the year. These included a number of road repairs and minor drainage works. The regular flood on Bishampton Road is due for resolution this summer, though the promised drainage work for Libbery lane has not yet materialised.

The concern about encroachments onto the road up Old Hill was resolved with the County determining no safety hazard and letters of advice to the affected property owners.

Wychavon have agreed to enforce the removal of the rubbish which has been in a gateway off New Hill for many years. This has not yet been completed as I write.

Gayle Rowe our new footpath officer has completed her training and started reviewing our footpaths, with a number of obstructions and stile repairs identified for action.

We agreed to continue with the lengthsman scheme and appreciate the benefit of Alan Farnsworth's work on our local roads and verges.

Following the purchase of the Flyford telephone box, modest funding has been agreed to enable a local group to refurbish the box and install shelving to enable it to be used as a book exchange for the benefit of the local community.

We have obtained agreement for the recent new homes bonus money for several recently built properties to be paid to the 3 Parishes Hall to support their improvement work.

We agreed to support the renovation of the Flyford war memorial with a moderate grant which in turn enables a more substantial grant from Wychavon.

J Roscoe and J East were appointed to represent the Parish Council on a steering group for Flyford Flavell Church. A proposal has been developed for improving the Church and enabling greater use as a community asset. A firm plan has not yet been shared with the Parish Council.

A democratic review has been held of the size of the Parish Council and the allocation of councillors by Parish. This will result in a reduction to 8 councillors from 2015 with a more even ratio of

councillors to number of electors in each parish.

Further enhancements have been made to “theflyfords.co.uk” web site with availability of more information including minutes and planning applications.

In conclusion I would like to thank all our councillors for their contributions and input, David Smallcombe for taking the Chair when necessary, and Mark for continued service and support beyond the call of duty. In addition I would like to thank Linda Robinson and Rob Adams for their regular support and assistance with raising issues to district and county for resolution and Gayle Rowe for undertaking the role of footpath officer.